



**Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group Meeting**  
**June 3rd, 2025**  
**Virtual meeting**

**Attendees:**

Sarah Schaefer-Brown	Kristen Laccetti	Kate Knight
Sara Powell	Samarra Scantlebury	Vicky O'Neill
Sarah Schechter	Katie Lund	Victoria Moreno
Deb Abibou	Paul Stacey	Anthony Allen
Ben Goldberg	Alan Cohn	Joseph Woodrick
Elizabeth Hornstein	Jimena Perez-Viscasillas	Michelle Luebke
Becky Shuford	Owen Placido	Kellie Marty
Sylvain DeGuise	Sue Van Patten	Hayley Elszasz
Nancy Balcolm	Nicole Gouvert	Shauna Kamath
David Kozak	Shahela Begum	Jamie Ong (phone)
Carrie Clingan	Harry Yamalis	

**Welcome & Introductions – Becky Shuford**

- Becky welcomed all Work Group members and gave a brief overview of the agenda for today's meeting.
- Ben shared that we are anticipating new NYC Work Group members from NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks), Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOCEJ), & the SWIM Coalition.
  - Michelle Luebke - Program Manager for SWIM Coalition. 70+ organizations dedicated to achieving Clean Water Act goals for NYC.
  - Hayley Elszasz - Climate Science Advisor with MOCEJ, works with academic partners on aligning research with climate policy.
  - This is also Alan Cohn's (NYC DEP) first SRC Work Group meeting.
  - Also new from NYC Parks - Natural Resources Group: Jamie Ong

**SRC Team Updates - Sarah Schaefer-Brown**

- Break Down Barriers Program Updates
  - <https://www.lisresilience.org/assistance-programs/> - find all the information on our two assistance programs here.
  - To date, we have supported 31 communities/36 grant proposals through our Grant Writing Assistance Program; using ~\$258k. For FY22 & FY23, we've seen a 30% success rate, equalling a \$11 to \$1 return on investment.
  - See our case studies page for successful GWA supported projects: <https://www.lisresilience.org/case-studies/>



- Currently in Round 2 of our Planning Support Program - we received 41 applications and RFPs are out now through Cornell & UConn for 21 candidate projects.
- Year 1 of the program we received 28 applications, advanced 18 candidates, and ultimately funded 15 projects totalling nearly \$1.1 million.
- Year 1 projects are ongoing and we hope they will utilize our grant writing assistance program once they are complete and begin to seek implementation funding.
- Funding Workshops, Westchester LULA Training
  - Since our February Work Group meeting, we held two funding workshops - 3/27 on Long Island, 3/31 in New Haven, CT. This was the 2nd year of funding workshops like this. Attendees heard from 30+ funding opportunities and were able to engage directly with program officers. A panel discussion with successful awardees also provided helpful information and insight.
  - Westchester LULA in April - 22 leaders from 7 different Westchester municipalities participated in a 3-day training focused on land use system and flood resilience; all communities received a completed RISE assessment. Plans are in the works for a follow up meeting to discuss how to continue regional collaboration and coordination.
- USGS will share a Compound Flood Hazard Model Update at August meeting

#### **Review Draft 5-Year Work Plan Outline and Proposed Tasks - Ben Goldberg & Sarah Schechter**

- In February, we began to brainstorm about the revision process for our 5-year SRC work plan. We are currently in year 4 of the existing work plan. Goal is to implement the new, revised work plan beginning in October 2026.
- Today we are going to share what we have been working on based on the feedback we received from Work Group members in February. Our hope is to have a draft completed by the end of the summer to share with you, and a final draft by the end of the year.
- Ben reviewed our current work plan tasks and discussed how we want the new work plan to be in alignment with the new LIS Partnership CCMP. He also noted that his NYC needs assessment is currently underway, and discussed how we want the new work plan to be adaptive to new information that may arise either from that, or from the different planning/implementation contexts of each of our regions.
- We also want to be sure that our new work plan emphasizes collaboration with other LIS Partnership Work Groups, such as the Informed and Engaged Public (IEP) Work Group, and identifies partners to assist with implementation of work plan tasks.
- Sarah Schechter reviewed our draft work plan outline:
  - Introduction
    - History & goals of the WG
    - Background on the SRC EP Team



- Work/progress to date
  - Goal and Objectives/Outcomes
    - Alignment with 2025 CCMP
    - Simplified diagram of tasks & outcomes
  - Tasks
    - Matrix to show alignment of tasks with CCMP Actions
    - Description of each task, including identification of lead/partners & funding/resource needs
    - Timeline
  - SRC Work Group Structure and Roles
  - Assessment & Reporting
- Sarah reviewed the Proposed work plan tasks (stars (\*\*)) denotes tasks that are either entirely new to this work plan or expanded upon from the current work plan, and the tasks are color-coded to show general alignment with 2025 CCMP Objectives - blue is Objective #1: Informed Decision Makers, red is Objective #2: Community-driven Resilience Planning, and yellow is Objective #3: Resilience Initiative Implementation):
  - Overarching Task - Evaluate & Adapt to Community Needs
    - This task underpins all SRC work
  - Support Regional Workshops and Knowledge Exchanges
    - This task would include our Annual Workshops, Funding Workshops, Tech Transfers
  - Develop and Deliver Training Programs
    - Trainings on tools, project planning, grant writing, etc.
    - Training program for new local government officials
    - Program to recognize decision-makers who participate in X number of trainings per year
    - Work to identify gaps in current training programs
  - Maintain & Improve the Resource Hub
    - Evaluate use of hub & tools, explore new features & functions
  - Share Case Studies & Stories \*\*
    - Highlight exemplary plans, projects, and policies
    - Climate story banking - sharing the human perspective
    - Field trips to resilience projects
    - Awards for great resilience projects
  - Facilitate Community-Participatory Research and Tool Development \*\*
    - Connect research and tool development with local needs
    - Partner with Sea Grant Research Program and the LIS Partnership Science & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
  - Support Local and Regional Resilience Planning
    - Provide tools and templates



- Facilitate conversations across municipal lines
- Incentivize collaboration & form cohorts of communities
- Partner with Universities and Professional Networks \*\*
  - Tap into university programs/networks
  - Engage students: capstone projects and planning/design studios
  - Engage with relevant professional networks
- Facilitate Community Engagement in Planning and Decision-making \*\*
  - Build toolkit/framework
  - Hold community forums and workshops
  - Work with IEP Work Group
- Provide Project Lifecycle Support
  - Continue and expand BDB program
  - Targeted project lifecycle support
  - Help communities identify funding sources
  - Put effort toward most feasible projects
- Engage Policy Makers \*\*
  - Bring together regulatory agencies to address key permitting and regulation challenges
  - Showcase communities that have updated their codes & ordinances
- Engage Private Residents, Realtors, and Developers \*\*
  - Develop resources and trainings on how to balance existing and new development needs with resilience considerations
  - Promote resiliency measures on private & residential properties
  - Land transfers & increased public access opportunities



Work Plan Task	SRC CCMP Actions Supported									
	1-1	1-2	2-1	2-2	2-3	3-1	3-2	3-3	3-4	3-5
1. Evaluate & Adapt to Community Needs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Support Regional Workshops & Knowledge Exchanges	X	X		X	X					
3. Develop & Deliver Training Programs	X									
4. Maintain & Improve Resource Hub		X								
5. Share Case Studies & Stories ★	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
6. Facilitate Community-Participatory Research & Tool Development ★		X								
7. Support Local & Regional Resilience Planning			X	X						
8. Partner with University & Professional Networks ★			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9. Facilitate Community Engagement in Planning & Decision-Making ★					X					
10. Provide Project Lifecycle Support						X	X	X	X	X
11. Engage Policy Makers ★							X	X	X	
12. Engage Private Residents, Realtors, & Developers ★					X			X	X	

### Breakouts to gather additional feedback & help identify partners

- Deb reviewed the purpose & goals of our breakout sessions:
  - Refine and prioritize the proposed tasks, get feedback on each task's feasibility and relevance, identify any gaps or opportunities to combine tasks
  - Everyone was randomly assigned to one of three groups for 30 minutes of discussion. See the breakout room notes below:
    - Group #1: [Breakout-1\\_SRCWG\\_06-03-2025](#)
    - Group #2: [Breakout-2\\_SRCWG\\_06-03-2025](#)
    - Group #3: [Breakout-3\\_SRCWG\\_06-03-2025](#)
  - Reference Materials
    - CCMP - [Workplan Crosswalk for SRC Work Group Meeting](#)
    - Internal reference or new members: [2025 CCMP Final 3-20-2025 Policy Committee Approved.pdf](#)
- Report Out
  - Group 1:
    - Heard a lot about how needs change region to region.
    - Clarifying questions as to what was meant by each task
    - Look into recent legislation in CT



- Didn't hear that anything big was missing
- Consider inclusiveness
- Task 12 is very big - consider how to go about this
- Decisions about combining tasks may rest in reporting guidance
- Group 2:
  - Big-picture - framing the conversation in terms of everything we want to touch on, but may need to identify if it would be carried out strictly by SRC or with other WG partners.
  - Task 9 - may want to lean on partners like Informed and Engaged Public WG to facilitate this task. Need to also consider community capacity
  - May want to create a local government advisory committee
  - Suggestions to combine case studies and Resource Hub or case studies and regional workshops
  - Concern about task 11 - could define focus so its not advocacy
  - Task 12 - may need boundaries
- Group 3:
  - Clarify who is the "we" and what the roles of partners might be.
  - Use needs assessment to help drive the process
  - Flesh out engage policymakers task (11) more in terms of strategy (i.e., which policymakers do we want to engage)
  - Clarify project lifecycle support task (10); keeping in mind limited resources of LISP and what partners can provide (partners theme!)
  - Note on opportunities to engage other sectors: insurance, utilities
  - Will need to determine which policies we want to focus on and in what capacity.
  - New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) noted as a good venue for connecting to climate research community
  - Consider organizing meetings for policymakers, residents, and developers to interact
  - Case studies could be nested under RH
  - NYC venues such as NPCC and Town+Gown highlighted for collaboration
  - Knowledge exchanges should probably be kept separate from trainings - provide different benefits such as networking and community-building
- Discussion:
  - SRC team will review all feedback and integrate everything into a draft work plan.
  - Plan to share draft prior to August 12 SRC Work Group meeting, then finalize by end of 2025. New work plan would go into effect October 1, 2026.
    - Sylvain noted this seems like a big gap, but during this time we will be putting together proposals for EPA for funding, so we really do need to finalize the work plan by the end of 2025.



- Deb - SRC team will circulate all materials and a feedback form after the meeting as well, so if you have more thoughts you can send them to us that way. Or directly by email any time!
- Paul - Resilience work demands a focus on nature. Most of what is detailed in this work plan is really resistance/infrastructure updates/disaster preparedness. Need to integrate more of a focus on healthy watersheds. Suggest having workshops at municipal levels focused on their needs.

### **Discuss SRC WG structure/composition - Elizabeth Hornstein**

- Updates on possible expansion of Work Group
  - How can we make meetings more interactive and engaging?
  - How can we increase participation of WG members (without overburdening you!) and improve our WG structure?
  - Please send us any suggestions on new members!
- Poll Everywhere/Discussion Questions
  - We would like to hold one in-person meeting each year like a lot of other LIS Partnership Work Groups do. Is this feasible for you? If not, what are the barriers?
    - Most said meeting in-person is feasible but a few members noted potential capacity and funding issues that could limit their ability to travel.
    - We can consider having a virtual option for the in-person meeting.
  - Would you like more presentations - from WG members or outside experts? If yes, what would you like to hear about?
    - Most members said they would like to have more presentations.
    - Need to balance getting feedback/making decisions with presentations
    - Suggestion to have presentations from other NEPs and/or NGOs sharing their approaches to the same type of work.
    - Would be great to hear from other WG members - get to know each other and potential for collaboration.
    - New tools/Decision support tools + continued updates/demos on USGS CFRM
    - Input toward workshops, site visits, etc.
    - Presentations from municipal staff/leaders about their needs/approach to resilience planning
    - Case studies/Lessons Learned
    - Learn more about the work happening in communities around the region
    - NYC Panel on Climate Change (NPCC)
    - Examples of groups engaging landowners in sustainable practices and projects



- Barriers to municipal staff/elected officials from participating in LIS management related issues
- Integrated Resource Management that balances human and natural operating space
- What subcommittees (in addition to our existing BDB I-Team) would be helpful to implement the new work plan?
  - Task #12
  - Maybe this is an ongoing question as the new work plan gets refined and implemented?
  - USGS CFRM group dedicated to moving this tool/study results into community flood planning & making sure the resources invested in this result in a good ROI.
  - Sustainability principles in social-ecological system context that promote ecological resiliency

#### **Other Updates from the Work Group**

- Kellie Marty - LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange is coming up on June 30 in NYC - please share with your networks!
  - Registration link for the Annual Learning Exchange: [LISCIF 2025 Annual Learning Exchange ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)
- Vicky O'Neill - RAE 2025 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop will be in New Haven, CT October 29-30; poster submissions accepted through August 31. Registration isn't open yet but we can share that information once it's available. Typically attended by people from around the country/world!
  - [2025 Living Shorelines Workshop Call for Proposals ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)
- Paul Stacey - Today is the NAS "State of the Science" webinar presented by President Marcia McNutt. 3 PM. More information at: [NAS President Marcia McNutt to Deliver Second State of the Science Address on June 3 | National Academies](#)
  - Also: Excellent article on the SRC work group in the Spring/Summer issue of Wracklines on p. 20: [wrack lines spring summer 2025](#)

#### **Wrap Up – Sylvain DeGuise**

- Thanks to everyone for their participation today, your feedback is very helpful. We are seeing great return on investment and increase in interest in SRC programs, and I applaud the effort to build on successful programs and venture into new areas in the new work plan. Looking forward to seeing how SRC programs continue to evolve.
- Upcoming virtual SRC WG meetings: 8/12/2025, 11/12/2025 (shifted a day for Veterans day)

**Adjourned at 2:55 PM**